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HOUSE OF M

CLAREMONT

BACHALO

MENDOZA

MARVEL

464



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THE **SCARLET WITCH** HAS LOST HER MIND AND HAS USED HER MUTANT POWER TO ALTER REALITY, TRANSFORMING THE WORLD INTO A MUTANT UTOPIA RULED FROM GENOSHA BY HER FATHER, **MAGNETO**.

WELCOME TO THE **HOUSE OF M**.

BECAUSE OF WANDA'S REALITY SHAKE-UP, A TRANS-TEMPORAL TSUNAMI OF UNIMAGINABLE FORCE SWEEPED OUTWARD FROM OUR EARTH, ALSO KNOWN AS EARTH 616, SHATTERING THE WALLS BETWEEN DIMENSIONS AS IT SPREAD TO THE FARTHEST REACHES OF CROSSTIME, CAUGHT UP IN THE DEVASTATION WAS **BRIAN BRADDOCK**, MONARCH OF OTHERWORLD.

UNLESS THE CHAOS-WAVE IS STOPPED, ALL REALITY WILL DEVOLVE INTO NOTHINGNESS. THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS IS TO SEAL THE BREACH IN THE DIMENSIONAL WALLS THAT OCCURRED ON EARTH WHEN THE **SCARLET WITCH** ALTERED ITS FUNDAMENTAL REALITY. IF **BRIAN (A.K.A. CAPTAIN BRITAIN)** CAN'T DO THIS, OUR UNIVERSE WILL BE ERASED FROM EXISTENCE.

UNFORTUNATELY, UPON RETURNING TO EARTH 616, BRIAN HAS FALLEN COMPLETELY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF WANDA'S REALITY-ALTERATION. BRIAN IS NOW MONARCH OF ENGLAND, BUT HE KEEPS HAVING A NIGHTMARE ABOUT THE IMMINENT END OF THE UNIVERSE. IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, HE MUST STOP A VIOLENT GROUP OF BOUNTY HUNTERS ON THE TRAIL OF A YOUNG WOMAN WHOSE GENESCAN SUGGESTS A DIRECT LINK WITH THE HOUSE OF M.

HIS SISTER **PSYLOCKE** AND HER FRIEND **MARVEL GIRL** CONFRONT THE YOUNG FUGITIVE, NAMED **NOCTURNE**. HOWEVER, WHAT BOTH WOMEN WERE UNAWARE OF WAS THAT THEY WERE BEING FOLLOWED...

● THE WEST OF ENGLAND

SOMETHING'S
COMING, GIRLS...



WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

HEADS UP!

KRRSSH!



SAW THEM TWO BINTS SLIP AWAY. FIGURED IT'D BE WORTH IT FOLLOW!

THE TELEPATH IS USING HER POWER TO INHIBIT MINE...

BUT CALIBAN STILL DETECTS ENOUGH OF OUR QUARRY'S SCENT TO KNOW SHE IS HERE...

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, CHILD. THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN...

YIELD-- IN THE NAME OF MAGNETO!



RACHEL-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IMPROVISING. BETSY-- LIKE ALWAYS

YOU WANT TO POSSESS SOMEONE? NOCTURNE?

TRY ME

OH BLOODY HELL!

STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

Season of the Witch

PART
OF
3

BY CHRIS
CLAREMONT &
NEW REGULAR
ARTIST
CHRIS BACHALO!

STAND DOWN,
MARAUDERS.

THERE'S
NOBODY HERE BUT
THE PRINCESS ROYAL OF
THE REALM AND HER
COMPANION.



IRWIN, MENDOZA, OLAZABA,
RAPMUND & VEY
INKERS

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CALIBAN
DOES NOT
BELIEVE
YOU.

THE GIRL'S
HERE, I CAN
SMELL HER!

RACHEL'S A
TELEPATH, SHE
KNOWS T-RAX IS
BLUFFING.





BETSY, IN TURN, RESPONDS INSTINCTIVELY TO THE SIGHT OF TEETH AND CLAWS CLOSING IN ON HER FRIEND.

I SAID, BACK OFF!

TYPICAL ENGLISH PRINCESS--



--NO MANNERS AT ALL WORTH THE NAME!

HOW NICE 'TIS T' BE RECOGNIZED.

I WONDER IF YOU TASTE AS GOOD AS YOU LOOK!

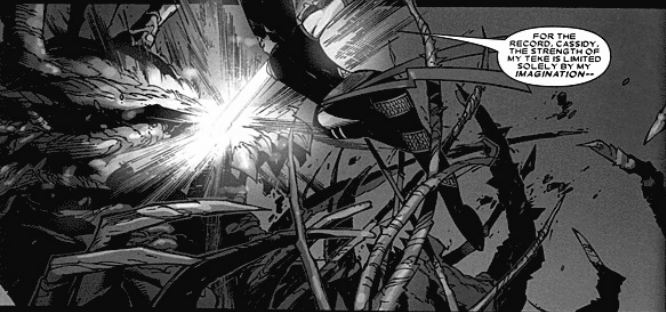
BLACK TOM CASSIDY!



WORD IS, Y'R TEKE CAN SHATTER MOUNTAINS?

ODDLY ENOUGH, SO CAN I.

LET'S DANCE, AN' SEE WHO'S THE STRONGER!





I SWEAR,
SOMEDAY THAT
GIRL WILL BE THE
DEATH OF ME.

SADDLE UP,
MARAUDERS.

I'M BETTING IF
WE FOLLOW THE
PRINCESS, SHE AND
THE REDHEAD WILL
LEAD US STRAIGHT
TO NOCTURNE--

--AND
THE BIGGEST
PAYDAY OF
OUR LIVES!



I DON'T
THINK SO,
CALLISTO.

OUR
AUTHORITY
COMES FROM THE
HOUSE OF M,
BRADDOCK.

PICK A FIGHT
WITH US, YOU'LL
START A WAR.



D'YOU REALLY THINK
THE MASTER OF
THE WORLD
WANTS THAT FOR
A BIRTHDAY
PRESENT?



WE
HAVE OUR
ORDERS.



THIS IS MY
REALM,
CALLISTO.

LET
ME AND
MY SISTER
HANDLE
THIS.

DON'T
WORRY, YOU'LL
GET THE CREDIT,
AND THE FEE.

ALL RIGHT,
BRADDOCK.
THIS ROUND
TO YOU.



BUT IF THERE'S
EVEN A HINT OF
A DOUBLE
CROSS...

...ROYAL
BLOOD WON'T
SAVE YOU--OR
YOUR PRECIOUS
SISTER.



BRIAN!

MEGGAN,
WHAT--?!



BLESS
MY SOUL.

WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO HER?



MY
CHAMPION--

--THE FATE
OF ALL CREATION
RESTS ON YOUR
SHOULDERS--



--WHY
HAVE YOU
FORSAKEN
ME?



ROMA?

SHE
WARNED
YOU--
SATURNINE?



--NOT TO BE
SUBSUMED
BENEATH
YOUR WORLD'S
NEW REALITY.



BRADDOCK,
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WHY'S SHE CHANGING
FORM?



TICK-TOCK,
BABY BROTHER,
TICK-TOCK.



TIME'S A
WASTIN'!



IF YOU
CANNOT FIND
THE HERO
WITHIN THE
MONARCH...



...WE ARE
ALL OF US
DOOMED.



WHAT
WAS THAT ALL
ABOUT?



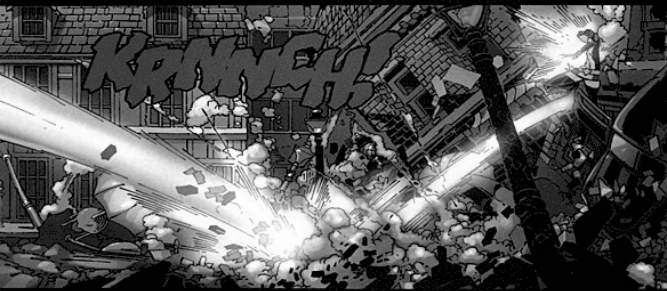
I DON'T
KNOW...
IS THE QUEEN
CRAZY?!



I...
DON'T...
KNOW!

MEANWHILE









IF YOU
DON'T MIND MY
ASKING, ROYAL
HIGHNESS--

--WHERE
ARE WE?

MY
OLD PLAY-
GROUND.

RIGHT--
THE SMASHING
MOUNTAINS
THING.

SIGH!

THESE
RUINS USED TO
BE ST. WILLIAM'S
TOWER.

WHERE
I PLAYED AS A
YOUNG GIRL.

WHAT
WAS IT, BETTS.
SOME VICTORIAN-
ERA CHINESE
FOLLY?

DON'T BE
ABSDUR, THIS
FORTRESS PREDATES
THE NORMAN
CONQUEST.

THE
FOUNDATIONS
WERE LAID WHEN
THE ROMANS RULED
THIS ISLAND, AND THE
CATACOMBS ARE
OLDER STILL.

YOU'RE RIGHT
ABOUT THE
AGE.

BUT I'M
RIGHT AS
WELL.

IMPOSSIBLE.

THERE'S A
STRONG ENOUGH
RESONANCE IN THE
STONES--

--MAY
I SHOW YOU
WHAT THE
"REMEMBER?"

WOOSH!

BY ALL
MEANS.



WELL?

WHAT THE
DEVIL IS A TWO-
THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD
CHINESE FORTRESS
DOING HERE IN THE
BRITISH ISLES?

NO
OFFENSE,
HIGHNESS, BUT
HAVE YOU LOOKED
IN A MIRROR
LATELY?

DON'T BE
IMPERTINENT.

RACHEL--
THIS IS EXACTLY AS
I REMEMBER IT.

THIS IS
REAL. THIS IS
RIGHT.

MY BROTHER
AND I MADE THESE
RUINS OUR SECOND
HOME.

BRIAN?
THE KING?

NO.

JAMIE.

OLDER
THAN WE TWINS
BY A DECADE.

BRIAN LIVED
IN HIS BOOKS, TRYING
TO SOLVE THE SECRETS
OF EVERYTHING...

...WHILE
JAMIE AND I, WE HAD
ADVENTURES.

BUT MA'AM,
IF HE'S FIRST-
BORN...

WHY
ISN'T HE
KING?

BECAUSE
I'M QUITE MAD,
Y'KNOW!

POWER RUNS
DEEP IN OUR
FAMILY.

HE GOT
THE FULL
MEASURE.

THE ABILITY
TO PULL THE
QUANTUM
STRINGS THAT
DEFINE
CAUSALITY.
HE GOT
HIMSELF SO
TANGLED...

HE'LL
NEVER TWIST
FREE.

BETSY--
LOOK
THERE!



IT'S A LIGHTHOUSE, RACHEL.

BRIAN'S FAVORITE PLACE TO READ, SO WHAT?

BETSY-- CAN'T YOU SEE?!

SEE WHAT?!

OH, NOTHING MUCH...

--JUST A GREAT THUMPING HOLE SLASHED THROUGH REALITY, IN THE SHAPE OF AN "X".

REALLY?

WHERE?



ONE MORE STEP, MA'AM, AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR VERY OWN "WILE E. COYOTE" MOMENT.

WE'LL LINK OUR POWERS THEN, AND USE OUR TEKE AS A SAFETY LINE.

AREN'T YOU COMING?



IT HURTS! LIKE SOME AWFUL, FESTERING WOUND.

BETSY, CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

NOT A THING.

PLEASE, COME AWAY!

IT'S NOT SAFE!



SINCE WHEN HAS THAT EVER STOPPED US-- AAAAHHH!



WHAT IS

HAPPENING
TO ME!



BRADDOCK MANDR

THANK
GOD MEGGAN'S
SLEEPING.

I
WISH I
COULD.



BUT I'VE
GOT TO FIGURE
OUT THE MEANING
OF WHAT I
SAW--!



GASP!



KRSH!

I
KNOW
HIM!

MY
OLDER BROTHER
JAMIE.

HE'S
COMPLETELY
MAD.

YOUR
FANCY
TOY--

--SHE
BROKE!

KRSH!

OF COURSE!
I REMEMBER
NOW...

HE SMASHED--
THE CELESTIAL
NULLIFIER

BEFORE
SATURNYNE COULD
ANNIHILATE THIS ENTIRE
DIMENSION!





THE WORLD CAN
TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.
BRIAN BRADDOCK!

I'D WORRY MORE
ABOUT SAVING
YOURSELVES.







THEY'RE BOTH DOWN, CALLISTO!

EEEEEE

THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY.
WRAP UP THE ROYALS--
FULL SEDATION--



...AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR FUGITIVE!



THERE SHE GOES!
SHE WAS HIDIN' INSIDE THE RED HEAD!

STAY FOCUSED, TJ.



KNOW YOUR ADVERSARIES.
USE THE LANDSCAPE.

I'VE GOT THOSE GUYS BEAT WITH SPEED AND ABILITY. BETTER GO FOR HIGH GROUND.



MAX, SHE'S CLIMBING THE CLIFF.

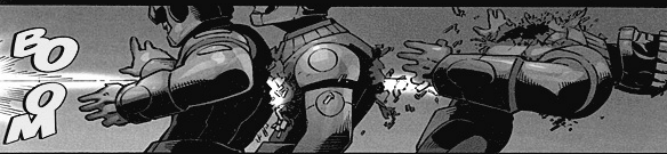
GOT HER!



COME TO POPPA, MONKEY-GIRL.

CALLISTO, I GOT THE MONEY!







BY THE POWER AND
AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME
BY THE LORD MAGNETO--

--I HEREBY SENTENCE
YOU, BRIAN BRADDOCK,
AND ALL YOUR FAMILY--

--TO
DEATH!

 **NEXT: CHADS RULES!**

X-MEN

Goodness gracious! From the looks of the opposite page, things seem rather bleak for Captain Britain and his lady-love, Meggan! Even though he's not a mutant, I can't help but pity Captain Britain in his new predicament against Omega Sentinel Karima Shapandar!

You know, I once summured in England and spent some time with the lovely Miss Shapandar...and speaking from personal experience, I can tell you she packs a pretty mean wallop (though I don't think one "tap on the bum," as the English say, merited her ire).

Oops! There I go again, yammering on. Where are my manners? Hello and welcome to House of M and another UNCANNY X-MEN letters page! Mutant Nick Lowe, here, at your service! Let me fetch petty Sapien Sean Ryan to answer some letters!

Sure thing, all-holy mutant Nick Lowe. First let me wrap up organizing your pillows alphabetically, then it's on to the letters.

Dear X-Mail,

First, let me say that what Chris Claremont is doing with the UNCANNY X-MEN is absolutely brilliant. I've been a fan of the X-Men for as long as I can remember and he's just making me love it even more. Not only did he bring Psylocke back, but Mojo, Nocturne, and Juggernaut! Oh, and this whole Jamie Braddock threatening Psylocke thing is crazy. I can't wait to see what happens with that. I've got three questions:

1) With Psylocke making her return to the mansion, should we expect to see Thunderbird III coming back?

2) Is Cannonball ever going to come back to the team?

3) In the X-TREME X-MEN comics, when they were searching for the Destiny prophecies, Sage was looking at a certain book, dealing with Storm, Bishop, Slipstream, and a Shi'Ar-looking girl fighting Deathbird. I was wondering, do you guys ever plan on going back to that whole thing?

Well, until Dark Phoenix comes back and destroys the world, Make Mine Marvel!

Don Moore,
Aspen, Colorado

Good questions, Don. Now for the great answers.

1) Hmm...with Psylocke and Thunderbird's history, that would make sense. Let's just say we shouldn't rule out a visit from good ol' Neal Sharra. He loves the pop-in!

2) Oh yes, Cannonball-lovers, the man will be back. Look for him soon. He'll be the guy flying around like a missile.

3) Don't worry, Don. Destiny's prophecies are still out there and we haven't forgotten them, they are just on the X-Men's back burner for now. You'll understand why after House of M!

Dear Marvel,

Thank goodness! Someone said it first, so I didn't have to. In the letters column of UNCANNY #461 someone, identified only as "Andy," said it was time to get rid of the silly banter between Sean and Nick. I wouldn't have said it quite as harshly as he did, but I have to agree. Don't you miss the letters in old back issues? Remember when they discussed whether Captain America should go fight in Vietnam? Why don't we discuss something of substance in the letters page nowadays? How about this war in Iraq? Shouldn't we be in Afghanistan looking for al Qaeda? Let's discuss something meaty!

As to this comic's content, Claremont's style is still unmistakable. As long as you're bringing back old villains, how about Blob, Avalanche, Arcade & Murderworld, the Mandroids and Blaastar? Blaastar was not originally an X-Men villain, but then again, neither was Arcade!

Ciao!
Bob Gomez

Well hello, Bob. We're sorry you feel that way about our so-called "banter." But maybe you're right...maybe we should tackle more serious subject matter.

I totally agree with Sean. (Ugh, I feel dirty.) There are issues out there that need to be discussed, and who better to answer them than a mutant with a duct-taped chest and his Sapien sidekick. Let's start with the troubles in the Middle East. Now, personally, I think--wait a minute, folks, some strange group of people has just burst into the office! Jim Howlett? Wow--it's been years! How's S.H.I.E.L.D. been treating you?

Oh hey, it's my old flame Carol Danvers! Goodness, she's gotten fat since we dated. What's that about?

And who might you be, young lady? Your eyes are strange--AHH-RRRGHH-PFFF--!

AHH! Oh god...none of this is real! \$%#ing Magnet! We should totally kill him!

No. It CAN'T be true. Oh...oh dear.

Anyway, Bob--in closing, maybe next issue we will discuss some meatier issues. Like U.N. Ambassador, John Bolton and how difficult it is for him to eat corn on the cob. It must be impossible!

Dear X-Mail:

I wanted to pass on kudos to Mr. Claremont and Mr. Davis. There was a truly great X-Men moment in issue #462 when Psylocke says to Rachel, "Does everything revolve around that bloody bird?" That was priceless.

Okay, questions:

1) Are we going to get to see more of the growing Storm/Wolverine relationship? This is one that actually makes sense, unlike the Storm/Bishop thing you guys tried to sneak over on us in X-TREME X-MEN.

2) Does Psylocke's sword still have psychic abilities? I thought she was strictly telekinetic now.

3) You guys have any job openings?

Chris
Pasadena, CA

Thanks for writing in, Chris. Sean and I have to go help Wolverine and his crew in Genosha, but I want to answer your questions before we go.

1) For this question, I want to direct you to the adjective-less X-MEN book. There's some great Storm/Wolverine stuff coming there. And in a few months you'll be seeing a bit more right here in UNCANNY.

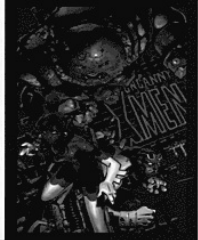
2) Interesting...we haven't seen Psylocke use it in a psychic capacity, but that doesn't necessarily mean she can't. There are a lot of mysteries looming about Psylocke's return. Keep reading, Chris. All will be revealed.

3) Job openings? We don't know if the world is going to exist if we don't get to Genosha, quick!

Well, it seems that Wolverine and the gang left without us. Looks like we're on our own getting to Genosha, Sean. Hope your credit card doesn't have a limit, these flights are COSTLY!! >Sigh< And I thought my next flight there would be for Wanda and my engagement party!

Well, that's all the time this month, folks. We've got to raise some money for our plane tickets. Feel free to send anything you got to the address below. It's either that, or plan B: A sexy carwash! (And you do NOT want to see Nick Lowe in jean shorts and roller skates... believe me.)

NEXT ISSUE



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